REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-10 and 13-10 have been amended. Claims 3-4, 6-7 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 5, 8-10 and 13-19 are currently pending in the application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document at the National Stage.

In the Specification

The specification has been amended as required by the Examiner.

In the Abstract

The abstract has been rewritten into better form as required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §112 and Claim Objections

The pending claims have been amended to overcome any of the Examiner's rejections or objections.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson et al. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Parce et al. Finally, claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson et al in view of Fuchs et al and Ramsey et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

According to the present invention, the wafer-shaped part moves relative to the body of the capillary electrophoresis system to create an electroosmotic flow in a passage contained in the wafer-shafed part. This way, the sample solution in one passage can be moved and sample molecules can be isolated by electrophoresis and analyzed (see specification, p. 14, lines 11-24).

None of the cited references disclose this feature of the present invention. Simpson et al merely show an integrated instrument for high capacity electrophoretic analysis of biopolymer samples. Parce et al disclose microfluidic devices for analyzing a plurality of compounds manufactured for performing high throughput screening assays. Fuchs et al show compositions for performing ultrafast binding assays by capillary electrophoresis or other electroseparation. Ramsey

et al merely showed an electrospray apparatus using a microchannel formed in a microchip.

None of the cited references disclose that the wafer-shaped part is moved relative to the body to form an electroosmotic flow in a passage of the wafer-shaped part. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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